

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
PENSACOLA DIVISION**

CHRISTOPHER B. GRAHAM,

Petitioner,

v.

Case No. 3:21cv483-LC/MAF

MARK INCH,

Respondent.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO TRANSFER § 2254 PETITION

Petitioner Christopher B. Graham, a state inmate proceeding pro se, has filed petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. ECF No. 1. He has not paid the filing fee or submitted a motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis. *See id.*

Petitioner Graham is currently incarcerated at the Blackwater River Correctional Facility, in Milton, Florida, which is located in the Northern District of Florida. *See* ECF No. 1; 28 U.S.C. § 89(a). In his § 2254 petition, he challenges a state court conviction and sentence entered by the Fifth Judicial Circuit, in and for Marion County, which is located in the Middle District of Florida. *See* ECF No. 1; 28 U.S.C. § 89(b).

Jurisdiction is appropriate in the district of confinement and the district of conviction. 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d) (providing that state prisoner may file

habeas petition in district where he was convicted and sentenced or in district where he is incarcerated). In this case, however, because the district of conviction appears to be the most convenient and appropriate venue, this petition should be transferred to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Ocala Division. *Id.*; M.D. Fla. R. 1.02(b)(2). See Byrd v. Martin, 754 F.2d 963, 965 (11th Cir. 1985); Parker v. Singletary, 974 F.2d 1562, 1582 (11th Cir. 1992).

It is therefore respectfully **RECOMMENDED** that the case file, including any service copies and pending motions, be **TRANSFERRED** to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Ocala Division, for all further proceedings.

IN CHAMBERS at Tallahassee, Florida, on March 19, 2021.

S/ Martin A. Fitzpatrick
MARTIN A. FITZPATRICK
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

NOTICE TO THE PARTIES

Within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy of this Report and Recommendation, a party may serve and file specific written objections to these proposed findings and recommendations. Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(2). A copy of the objections shall be served upon all other parties. A party may respond to another party's objections within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy thereof. Fed.

R. Civ. P. 72(b)(2). Any different deadline that may appear on the electronic docket is for the Court's internal use only and does not control. If a party fails to object to the magistrate judge's findings or recommendations as to any particular claim or issue contained in a Report and Recommendation, that party waives the right to challenge on appeal the district court's order based on the unobjected-to factual and legal conclusions. See 11th Cir. R. 3-1; 28 U.S.C. § 636.